TRENDS

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3/17/89

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

Office of Information and Public Affairs
50 F Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001
(202) 639-2555

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, March 10, 1989 -- Carloadings* originated on major U.S. railroads during the week ended March 4 totaled 339,892, up 1.3 percent from the comparable week of 1988 and 4.7 percent above the preceding week of 1989, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) reported today. The railroads reporting account for approximately 94 percent of all rail carloads.

Carloadings originated were up 4.2 percent in the East but down 2.2 percent in the West, compared with a year ago.

From the comparable 1988 week, coal loadings were up 8,887 cars (7.5 percent), and loadings of motor vehicles and equipment were up 2,711 cars (14.4 percent).

Cumulative carloadings for the first 9 weeks of 1989 totaled 2,947,862, up 0.2 percent from the comparable period a year ago.

Intermodal traffic on Class I railroads -- which is not included in the carloadings -- totaled 116,780 trailers and/or containers for the week ended March 4, virtually the same as the comparable week of 1988.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 9 weeks of 1989 was 994,881 trailers and/or containers, up 0.9 percent from 1988.

The AAR also estimated that ton-miles carried on major railroads in the week ended March 4 totaled 19.8 billion, 2.1 percent above the comparable week of 1988. Cumulative volume for the first 9 weeks of 1989 was an estimated 172.3 billion ton-miles, up 1.4 percent from the comparable period of last year.

**Because of changes in reporting, 1989 figures are not comparable to previous years, except for 1988, which has been restated for purposes of comparison with 1989.*

(more)

WEEKLY TRAFFIC OF MAJOR RAILROADS
FOR THE WEEK ENDING MARCH 4, 1989

CARLOADS ORIGINATED, BY COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY	WEEK ENDING MARCH 4, 1989	COMPARISON WITH SAME WEEK OF 1988	CHANGE	COMPARISON WITH PRECEDING WEEK	CHANGE
Grain	33,284	34,103	-2.4 %	29,296	13.6 %
Farm Products, Ex. Grain	1,526	2,292	-33.4	1,465	4.2
Metallic Ores	13,263	12,916	2.7	12,046	10.1
Coal	127,192	118,305	7.5	124,466	2.2
Crushed Stone, Sand & Gravel	11,869	13,166	-9.9	10,955	8.3
Nonmetallic Minerals	9,316	9,789	-4.8	9,226	1.0
Grain Mill Products	9,657	10,088	-4.3	9,707	-.5
Food & Kindred Products	9,035	9,682	-6.7	8,806	2.6
Primary Forest Products	9,293	11,085	-16.2	8,734	6.4
Lumber & Wood Products	7,234	7,911	-8.6	6,913	4.6
Pulp, Paper & Allied Products	11,134	11,566	-3.7	10,697	4.1
Chemicals	28,359	27,830	1.9	26,754	6.0
Petroleum Products	5,211	4,585	13.7	4,508	15.6
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	9,196	10,361	-11.2	8,632	6.5
Coke	5,817	5,696	2.1	5,428	7.2
Metals & Products	10,764	11,176	-3.7	9,799	9.8
Motor Vehicles & Equipment	21,494	18,783	14.4	21,514	-.1
Waste & Scrap Materials	9,264	9,988	-7.2	8,899	4.1
Forwarder & Shipper Assn.	7	36	-80.6	5	40.0
All Other Carloads	6,977	6,292	10.9	6,847	1.9
Total	339,892	335,650	1.3 %	324,697	4.7 %

SUMMARY: CARLOADS ORIGINATED, INTERMODAL TRAFFIC AND ESTIMATED TON-MILES

TRAFFIC	WEEK ENDING MARCH 4, 1989 1989	1988	CHANGE	CUMULATIVE: 9 WEEKS ENDING MARCH 4, 1989 1989	1988	CHANGE
Carloads Originated	339,892	335,650	1.3 %	2,947,862	2,941,235	.2 %
Intermodal Traffic						
Trailers	71,063	71,419	-.5	590,528	611,720	-3.5
Containers	45,717	45,343	.8	404,353	374,153	8.1
Total	116,780	116,762	.0	994,881	985,873	.9
Estimated Ton-Miles						
Class I Railroads (Billions)	19.8	19.4	2.1 %	172.3	170.0	1.4 %

NOTE: Carloads estimated for: Week 9, 1989 - PLE.

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